

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring the ventricular architecture of a heart having an anterior wall and an inferior wall, comprising the steps of:

creating an incision in the inferior wall of the heart to expose an inner surface of the ventricle of the heart;

forming a suture line around the inner surface of the inferior wall;

providing a ventricular patch having a sheet of biocompatible material and a triangular continuous ring fixed to the sheet and defining a central area of the patch inwardly of the ring and an outer rim of the patch outwardly of the ring;

sewing the continuous ring to the inner surface of the inferior wall so that the central area of the patch defines a portion of the ventricle of the heart; and

sewing the outer rim to the inner surface of the inferior wall outward of the continuous ring of the heart patch to inhibit the leakage of blood by the patch.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the inferior wall includes a contracting region and a non-contracting region separated by a zone of separation, and the creating step includes the steps of

creating the incision in the non-contracting region of the inferior wall; and

opening the incision to expose an inner surface of the heart.

9. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein the forming step includes the step of forming the suture line generally along the line of separation.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 8, wherein the opening step includes the step of spreading the incision to create a triangular opening extending into the ventricle of the heart.

11. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 8, wherein the outer rim of the patch includes a generally constant width around the ring ~~central area of the patch~~.

12-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the outer rim of the patch includes a generally constant width around the ring ~~central area of the patch~~.

15. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the sheet of biocompatible material is in the shape of a triangle.

16-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring the ventricular architecture of a heart having an anterior wall and an inferior wall, comprising the steps of:

creating an incision in the inferior wall of the heart to expose an inner surface of the ventricle of the heart;

providing a ventricular patch including a sheet of biocompatible material with a continuous ring in the shape of a triangle fixed to the sheet and defining a central area of the patch inwardly of the ring and an outer rim of the patch outwardly of the ring;

sewing the ventricular patch to the inner surface of the ventricle so that the central area of the patch defines a portion of the ventricle of the heart; and

sewing the outer rim to the inner surface of the ~~ventricle~~ ventricle outward of the defined portion of the the ventricle of the heart to inhibit blood from leaking from the ventricle.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the outer rim of the patch includes a generally constant width around the central area of the patch.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the sheet of biocompatible material is in the shape of a triangle.

25. (New) A method for restoring the ventricular architecture of a heart having an anterior wall and an inferior wall, comprising the steps of:

creating an incision in the inferior wall of the heart to expose an inner surface of the ventricle of the heart;

providing a ventricular patch including a sheet of biocompatible material with a continuous ring of pliable material in a non-circular shape fixed to the sheet and defining a central area of the patch inwardly of the ring and an outer rim of the patch outwardly of the ring;

sewing the ventricular patch to the inner surface of the ventricle with first sutures so that the central area of the patch defines a portion of the ventricle of the heart; and

sewing the outer rim to the inner surface of the ventricle with second sutures outward of the first sutures and outward of the portion of the ventricle of the heart to inhibit blood from leaking from the ventricle.